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## Design Project

The company I performed my design project at is BE Semiconductor Industries N.V. (Besi), a semiconductor assembly machine manufacturer headquartered in Duiven. For my project I worked from their main manufacturing facility in Shah Alam, Malaysia, just outside of Kuala Lumpur.

While finding a project in a foreign country might seem daunting, with the support of the right organisation it can actually be a rather straightforward process. For this project I reached out to the Malaysian Dutch Business Council (MDBC), as they have a program to assist Dutch students in finding internships in Malaysia. Looking back on my experience, the MDBC did a great job of arranging everything for a very minimal fee. Not only do they put you in touch with relevant internship positions, they also have Facebook groups to help you find flatmates and provide a helpful checklist of all the things you need to arrange before leaving for Malaysia.

My project at Besi was focussed around improving their levels of stock. The business of Besi is highly volatile and centred around rapid innovation. Combined with the very complex and expensive parts that make up Besi's machines, this leads to lots of left over stock if Besi doesn't quickly respond to changes in the market or in customer orders. Eventually, this stock is often written off and scrapped as the parts become obsolete very quickly. My assignment focussed on these changes in customer orders and to reduce both the impact and the incidence of these changes I developed tools to improve the efficiency of processing of these changes and proposed measures to more effectively shift the financial impact of the changes back to the customers that make them.

Arguably the best part of the internship at Besi was living in Kuala Lumpur, where I was living with a group of other Dutch students. As a group, the eight of us shared many great moments together; enjoying the amazing food, great nights out on Changkat and weekend trips to tropical islands. Aside from my flat mates, there was also a large population of other Dutch interns living in Kuala Lumpur so there would always be plenty of parties to go to on the weekend.

Next to this I also greatly enjoyed working at Besi, as the colleagues in the planning and procurement departments really showed us a great time. They took us along to lunch with them and were always happy to exchange stories and educate us on Malaysian culture. The supervision of my internship was also very well arranged, as the managing director took an hour of time every Friday to discuss how it was going and provide his input, which has definitely helped me produce a quality solution that is highly relevant to the problems Besi is facing.

Back when I was first looking for a design project, I had my mind set on completing this internship abroad. To accomplish this I pursued multiple possibilities, I reached out not only to the MDBC but also to UNSA (South Africa) as well as BearingPoint Caribbean. In the end, the decision to go to Kuala Lumpur was an easy one. Most

internships in South Africa are in Johannesburg or Pretoria, not the most appealing places to live. The Caribbean, while an appealing destination for a holiday, would look like just that on my resume. Kuala Lumpur had it all, a big Asian metropolis with a good environment to live in and great travel destinations nearby. The MDBC helped me find a very relevant internship here and I never regretted my decision.